



3629
BOX NON-FEE
AMENDMENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: M.R. Hansen et al. Attorney Docket No.: WEYE115753
Application No.: 09/639,658 Group Art Unit: 3629
Filed: August 15, 2000 Examiner: T.D. Nguyen
Title: METHOD OF BINDING PARTICLES TO BINDER TREATED FIBERS

AMENDMENT TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Seattle, Washington 98101

February 20, 2003

TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

A. Amendment Transmittal

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GROUP 3600

Transmitted herewith is an amendment in the above-identified application. No additional claim fee is required, as shown below.

COMPUTATION OF FEE FOR CLAIMS AS AMENDED

	Claims Remaining After Amendment		Highest Number Previously Paid For		Present Extra		Rate		Additional Fee
Total Claims	19	-	23	=	0	x	18	=	0
Independent Claims	1	-	1	=	0	x	84	=	0
TOTAL									\$0

B. Additional Fee Charges or Credit for Overpayment

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16, 1.17 and 1.18 which may be required during the entire pendency of the application, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 03-1740. This authorization also hereby includes a request

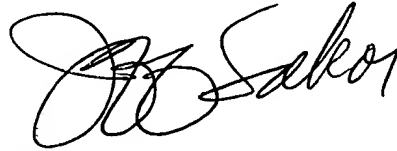
LAW OFFICES OF
CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR JOHNSON KINDNESS^{PLLC}
1420 Fifth Avenue
Suite 2800
Seattle, Washington 98101
206.682.8100

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for any extensions of time of the appropriate length required upon the filing of any reply during the entire prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR
JOHNSON KINDNESS^{PLLC}



Jeffrey M. Sakoi
Registration No. 32,059
Direct Dial No. 206.695.1713

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service in a sealed envelope as first class mail with postage thereon fully prepaid and addressed to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 2327, Arlington, VA 22202, on the below date.

Date: February 20, 2003

JMS:mx

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LAW OFFICES OF
CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR JOHNSON KINDNESS^{PLLC}
1420 Fifth Avenue
Suite 2800
Seattle, Washington 98101
206.682.8100





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RESPONSE TO EXAMINER'S ACTION MAILED NOVEMBER 25, 2002

Seattle, Washington 98101

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February 20, 2003

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TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

GROUP 3600

Responsive to the Examiner's Action mailed November 25, 2002, applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments set forth below and reconsideration of the application in view of the remarks that follow.

In the Claims:

Please amend Claim 55 as shown in the attached mark-up. Please cancel Claims 56, 60, 63, and 66. All pending claims as thus amended are set forth below.

~~55.~~ (Three Times Amended) A method of binding superabsorbent particles to cellulose fibers comprising:

providing binder-containing cellulose fiber, the binder-containing cellulose fiber comprising cellulose fiber having hydrogen bonding functional sites and from about 1 to 40% by weight based on the weight of the cellulose fiber of a binder comprising a non-polymeric binder having functional groups selected from the group consisting of a carboxyl, a carboxylate, a carbonyl, a sulfonic acid, a sulfonate, a hydroxyl, a phosphoric acid, a phosphate, an amide, an amine, and combinations thereof, the binder comprising binder molecules, the binder molecules having at least one functional group capable of forming a hydrogen bond or a coordinate

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LAW OFFICES OF
CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR JOHNSON KINDNESS^{PLLC}
1420 Fifth Avenue
Suite 2800
Seattle, Washington 98101
206.682.8100

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